



Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver Association Canadienne pour l'étude du foie

Dear CASL Members:

I want to take this opportunity to update you on the latest CASL news and activities.

The **2011 CASL Viral Hepatitis Consensus Conference** took place in Toronto on November 19-20. It was well attended with just over 100 registrants. There were excellent presentations by many of our CASL members, followed by robust and worthwhile discussions on Hepatitis B and C. The writing group is now busy working on the ***first draft of the document***, which ***will eventually be available online on the CASL website, and open for online feedback from the CASL membership***. Key points of the Consensus Statement will be presented in a ***CASL symposium in the upcoming CDDW/CASL Annual Meeting*** in Montreal. Dr. JM Pawlowsky has been invited to discuss issues and challenges relating to implementation of the guidelines. We plan to submit the document for publication by early 2012.

Dr. **Mang Ma**, our new Educational Chair and the Education Committee, is to be congratulated for securing 5 CASL fellowships for 2012/2013. Decisions of these fellowships will be announced on the CASL website as they become available. For 2011/2012, we awarded ***3 Clinical Fellowships (BMS, Merck, and Gilead) and 2 CIHR/CASL/Roche fellowships***. Congratulations to the recipients: Mamatha Bhat, Jennifer Fleming, Kurmaresan Yogeswaran, An Tang, and Qingxia Yao.

The Research Committee (Co-Chairs: **Dr. Eberhard Renner** and **Claudia Zwingmann**) deserve a big thank you for undertaking reviews for the CLF: 44 submissions for operating grants, 11 submissions for graduate studentship, and 18 submissions for summer studentship! ***Six CLF operating grants, 3 graduate studentships, and 5 summer studentships were awarded***. The majority of successful applicants were CASL members and their trainees! The committee is again hard at work reviewing abstracts for the upcoming CDDW/CASL Annual Meeting.

Dr. **Marilyn Zeman**, our new Membership Chair has many exciting ideas to increase CASL membership. We want to invite new faculty and trainees at your institution to become a CASL member. Please help us by sending their email addresses to the CASL secretariat at casl@hepatology.ca.

We want to serve you better! To find out how, we will be sending an ***online survey*** to all CASL members shortly. Please take 5-10 minutes to complete it. We really want to know how CASL can be improved!

If you are still undecided about attending **CDDW/CASL Annual Meeting (February 24 -27, Montreal)**, here are 3 reasons why you should attend!

1. It is **CASL's 27th Anniversary**. Come celebrate with us! ***We want to highlight CASL members (past and present) with significant contributions to liver diseases throughout the meeting.*** Please email names and a 1-line summary of their achievements to winnie.wong@ualberta.ca. Photos for slideshow display at the Gala will be much appreciated.
2. Drs. Kevoork Peltekian and Mang Ma has put together a stellar program with prominent International speakers including **Drs. A Czaja, JM Pawlostsky and J Bosch**. Link to the Meeting Program can be found on www.hepatology.ca.
3. Presentation of highlights from the **2011 CASL Viral Hepatitis Consensus Statement**.



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